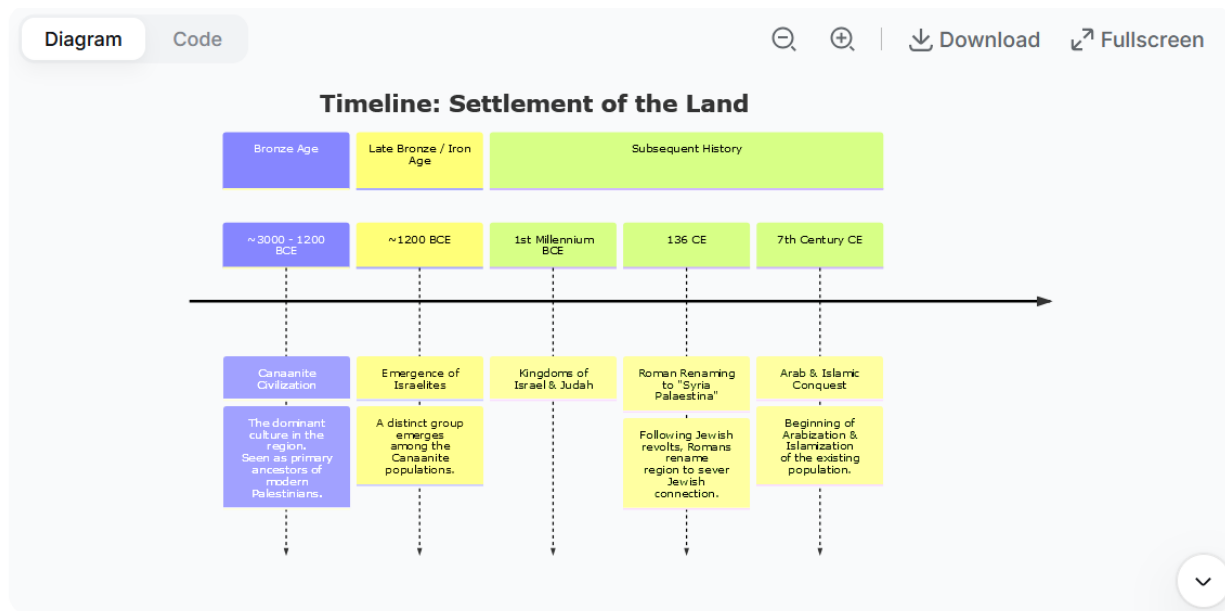




Based on archaeological and historical evidence—not religious texts—the groups now known as **Palestinians** have a **continuous link to earlier inhabitants of the land**, while the **Israelites** emerged as a **distinct group later**.

Here is a timeline showing the sequence based on the major historical and archaeological consensus:



📖 Key Historical Markers

- **The Canaanites (Pre-1200 BCE):** For over a thousand years before the Israelites, the region was dominated by the **Canaanite civilization**. Archaeological and genetic studies indicate that the modern Palestinian population is largely descended from these ancient inhabitants, with later cultural influences.
- **The Emergence of Israelites (~1200 BCE):** Archaeologists and historians identify the **Israelites as emerging from within the Canaanite population** in the Late Bronze Age. They became a distinct political and religious group in the region, establishing kingdoms.
- **The Name "Palestine":** After crushing Jewish revolts in the 2nd century CE, the Roman Empire renamed the province "**Syria Palaestina**," a derivative of "Philistine," to sever the Jewish connection to the land. The Arab population retained this geographic name.
- **Continuity vs. Disruption:** The critical point is that while Jewish sovereignty in the region ended for centuries after the Roman expulsion, **there was no wholesale disappearance of the local population**. The existing people—descendants of Canaanites, Israelites, and others—were gradually Arabized and Islamized, forming the core of the modern Palestinian people.

💎 Conclusion

To answer your question directly: The **Canaanite ancestors of Palestinians were on the land first**. The Israelites emerged later from among the Canaanite populations. Both modern groups—Israelis (through diaspora and return) and Palestinians (through continuous presence)—have deep, historically verifiable roots in the same land, which is a core reason the conflict is so enduring.

If you are interested in the specific genetic studies or archaeological findings that support this history, I can provide more detail.

ZOOMED SO YOU CAN SEE IT.

